there is no Central sector scheme for providing houses to the urban poor. Housing being a State subject. State Governments are formulating and implementing housing schemes for various target groups as per plan priorities, out of State plan outlay supplemented through institutional finance from HUDCO.

HUDCO has reported that it has sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 21.95 crores during the last three years for construction of 18935 dwelling units of urban EWS. The loan assistance has been utilised by the housing agencies, mentioned below, in providing constructed houses to the beneficiaries:—

1. Karnataka Housing Board.
2. Slum clearance Board.
3. Deputy Commissioners of Districts.
4. Bangalore City Corporation.

Low rate of Literacy in Andhra Pradesh

88. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 777 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 1996 and state:

(a) the reasons for which Andhra Pradesh lags behind in National Average Literacy rate;

(b) whether any Central assistance will be provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh to improve the literacy rate; and

(c) if so, what concrete programmes have been initiated by the State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The reasons are large geographical tracts, backward areas including tribal areas and poor socio-economic conditions.

(b) All the 23 districts in Andhra Pradesh have been covered under Total Literacy Campaign (TLC). Of them, 19 districts have been covered under the Post Literacy Campaign also. Central assistance is being provided to the State as per the approved pattern of implementation of the Literacy Campaign under the guidelines of the National Literacy Mission Authority. On successful completion of the Post Literacy Campaign, Central Govt, proposes to launch Continuing Education for the benefit of the neo-literates emerging out of the Literacy Campaign. Assistance will be provided under (his scheme on 100 per cent basis during the first 3 years and 50 per cent in the subsequent 2 years of starting the scheme. With a view to achieve total literacy, special measures are being taken by improving the monitoring and evaluation system; operation restoration; strengthening of the administrative structure in the States including involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the implementation of the programme.

(c) The Total Literacy Campaign programme is implemented in the State by the Zilla Saksharata Samiti to which Collector is the Chairman. The costs of the campaign are shared between Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 2:1. All the functionaries of the State Government at district level are involved in the implementation of TLC in a campaign mode.

Checking of Brain Drain

89. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the dangerous trend of brain drain;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the causes and the magnitude of brain drain;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) Some Indian scientists, engineers, medical graduates do migrate to other countries for higher studies/work abroad and some of them tend to stay back. But it has not been possible to maintain a record of such migrants and of those who permanently settle abroad. In order to attract such personnel back to the country, the Government have taken steps which include increase in Science and